

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year 1921.

To the Mayor and Members of the Chippenham Corporation:—

Report.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of presenting my Annual Report. The Report is compiled upon the lines indicated in the Memorandum, memo. 269, circular 168, issued by the Ministry of Health.

General Statistics.

The Urban District of Chippenham extends to an area of 11,960 acres, and has a population of 7,757.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,900.

The number of families or separate occupiers, 2,000.

The rateable value is £45,350. Sum represented by a penny rate £175

Vital Statistics. (extracts from)

Total deaths—male 37, female 42, death rate, 10·18. Illegitimate, male 2, female 2.

Total births—male 68, female 65, birth rate, 17·14.

Deaths of infants under one year old—legitimate, male 4, female 2, illegitimate 0.

Birth Rate R.G. 22·7

Death Rate R.G. 12·4

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth, none. From other causes of pregnancy, 2. No deaths from measles, whooping cough or diarrhoea.

Notifiable Disease.

Thirteen cases of Diphtheria were notified, there was one death. Twelve of these were admitted into the Isolation Hospital.

One case of Scarlatina was notified and it was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Two cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, both recovered.

Thirteen cases of Tuberculosis were notified, five males, six females, (Pulmonary), two females (non-Pulmonary).

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, treated at home. Recovered—vision unimpaired.

PARAGRAPH 5.

(a)

Some eight years ago this area was extended by absorbing a portion of the Chippenham Rural Sanitary district to render the rates more fair; as the Urban district was supplying water and part of the sewerage.

(b)

1921 was a very healthy year, there was no noteworthy condition prejudicial to health.

(c)

The provisions for Maternity and Child-welfare, Tuberculosis and centres for Venereal disease treatment are arranged for at Trowbridge, by the County Medical Officer.

The Sewerage work at Patterdown is nearly completed, at a cost of about £3,500.

After cases of infection are removed to the Isolation Hospital or treated at home, the rooms are disinfected by the Surveyor with sulphur dioxide.

Notwithstanding the prolonged drought, the water supply was constant throughout the year.

Your Council have purchased fourteen acres of park land with a view to the formation of playing fields, and room for recreation of various kinds. This must be beneficial to all, especially to children.

Two ambulances are available, one for infectious cases, one for accident and non-infectious cases.

PARAGRAPH 6.

Laboratory Work.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are frequently made. A supply of antitoxin is kept at 11 Market Place, and at the Isolation Hospital for supplying the wants of the medical men in the district free of charge.

Hospitals.

Besides the Workhouse Infirmary, there is an Isolation Hospital, thirty beds, and a Cottage Hospital, sixteen beds.

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Closet Accommodation.

The whole of the closets are being gradually converted into efficient water closets, in the old Borough only four earth closets remain, and in the extended area a considerable number of insanitary middens and earth closets have been converted into water closets.

Food.

The milk supply is good, most of it is imported into the town and is distributed by retailers from house to house.

The slaughter houses have been inspected and found to be in a fair condition, but they are for the most part old structures. Six slaughter houses are registered.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Staff 8.

Mr. Adams, the Sanitary Inspector, is provided with a clerk.

9.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year—		Urban
(a) Total	...	35
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	35
I.—Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection.		
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	212
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	212
II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.		
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	6
III.—Action under Statutory Powers.		
A <i>Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.</i>		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—		
(a) by owners	...	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	—
B. <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	186
(2) Number of dwellings houses in which defects were remedied—		
(a) by owners	...	186
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	—
C. <i>Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.</i>		
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	—
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demol- ition Orders	...	—

I have the honour to remain Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM THOMAS BRISCOE, B.A., M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

